

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 SCA-01

VOE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 FBI-01 SY-07 INSE-00 /072 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ CAR: PFCANNEY: SAG

4/6/73 EXT 22620

APPROVED BY ARA/ CAR - MR. BURKE

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R 070143 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

INFO AMCONSUL NASSAU

UNCLAS STATE 064936

E. O. 11652

TAGS: SREF: HA

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST BY HAITIAN REFUGEES

1. SIXTEEN HAITIANS (11 MEN, 5 WOMEN OF WHICH 2 PREGNANT), PICKED UP BY FISHING VESSEL MISS GALE OF US REGISTRY OFF GREAT ISAAC LIGHT IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS, ARRIVED IN MIAMI AT APPROXIMATELY 2130 APRIL 5. WHILE IN BAHAMIAN WATER MORNING OF SAME DAY, HAITIANS HAD RADIOED DISTRESS CALL AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE. A BAHAMIAN BOAT, PRESUMABLY A POLICE LAUNCH, ANSWERED THE CALL, PULLED ALONGSIDE THE HAITIAN BOAT, AND OFFERED TO BRING THE GROUP TO A POINT IN THE BAHAMAS. THIS OFFER WAS REFUSED. THE MISS GALE' S CAPTAIN, WHO ALSO HEARD THE DISTRESS CALL WHILE OUTSIDE BAHAMIAN WATERS, ENTERED BAHAMIAN WATERS, PULLED ALONGSIDE THE HAITIAN BOAT, AND HIS OFFER OF ASSISTANCE WAS ACCEPTED. ONCE ONBOARD THE HAITIANS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM AND INDICATED THEY WANTED TO PROCEED TO THE US. ONE OF THE PREGNANT WOMEN READY TO GIVE BIRTH WAS REPORTEDLY IN NEED OF MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE BOAT CAPTAIN REQUESTED AND RECEIVED COAST GUARD ADVICE TO PROCEED TO

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THE NEAREST PORT HAVING ADEQUATE MEDICAL FACILITIES WHERE THE WOMAN COULD BE TREATED. THE BOAT CAPTAIN THEN PROCEEDED IN THE DIRECTION OF MAIMI DESPITE THE APPARENTLY NEARER LOCATION OF FREEPORT AND BIMINI IN THE BAHAMAS. INS OFFICIALS MET THE BOAT AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INTERVIEWING EACH OF THE HAITIANS TODAY. THUS FAR, INTERVIEWS INDICATE GROUP PURCHASED BOAT IN THE BAHAMAS AFTER IT WAS LEARNED GOBI AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT RENEW THEIR WORK PERMITS. EACH IS EXPECTED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

2. NAMES OF HAITIANS, AS WELL AS FULL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR CASE, WILL BE FORWARDED UPON COMPLETION OF INS INTERVIEWS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
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